Approved for Release: 2016/03/23 C06496664

Director of Central Intelligence

(b)(3)

~~Top Secret~~

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National Intelligence Daily

Friday
14 November 1986

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

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INDIA-PAKISTAN-CHINA:

Border Tensions Continue

Tensions are high on India's borders with both China and Pakistan, but no major confrontation is expected any time soon.

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Pakistani officials have informed that the Indians have not notified them of Brass Tacks. Yesterday, President Zia publicly reiterated that the Indian maneuvers were particularly large but added that he did not believe India was about to attack Pakistan. (b)(3)

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Comment: Prime Minister Gandhi probably will see a limited Chinese reaction to the firing incident as the unavoidable result of an inadvertent Indian action. He will continue to suspect that Chinese movements in the area are designed to disrupt Indo-Soviet relations in advance of General Secretary Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi later this month. Indian forces may be ordered not to initiate hostilities, but they probably would react strongly to a Chinese incursion. (b)(3)

The Indians are unlikely to overreact to the Pakistani maneuvers, interpreting them as a counter to their own ambitious training plans. As it has done in the past, New Delhi may wait until its troops actually mass along the border early next year to notify Islamabad of the maneuvers. (b)(3)

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